

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the present patent application. In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner stated that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, since there is no figure or mention of an actuator having "at least one surface with a larger area than other surfaces" as noted in claims 1 and 3.

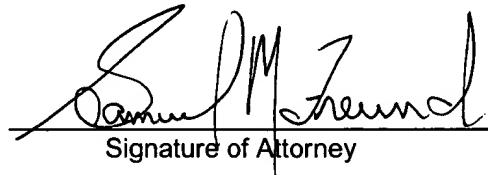
Applicants respectfully wish to point out that on page 5, lines 22-23, it is stated that "The preferred shape is a strip or a fiber, and fibers can be solid or hollow, although any shape may be used." Additionally, describing the polyaniline strip shown in Fig. 1, on page 5, lines 4 and 5, it is stated that "The polyaniline strip used had dimensions approximately 0.4 mm x 0.9 mm x 4 mm." Clearly, the two surfaces having dimensions 0.4 mm x 0.9 mm have greater area than the four surfaces having dimensions 0.4 mm x 0.4 mm.

The polymer strip described in EXAMPLE 1 (page 7, lines 17-19) had dimensions 0.9 mm x 4 cm x 400 μ m. The surfaces having dimensions 0.9 mm x 4 cm have considerably greater area than those having dimensions 0.9 mm x 400 μ m. Moreover, the solid fiber described in EXAMPLE 2 had a diameter of 105 μ m and a length of 4 cm (page 8, lines 19-21 and Fig. 2). The conjugated polymer films described on page 9, lines 12-15, and in Figs. 7a and 7b, also comply with the limitations set forth in amended claims 1 and 3.

Therefore, applicants believe that the limitation "having at least one surface with a larger area than other surfaces" finds ample support in the Specification and Figures of the present patent application, as originally filed.

For these reasons, applicants believe that claims 1-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and such action by the Examiner at an early date being earnestly solicited. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature consists of the initials 'S.M.' followed by the surname 'Freund'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters 'S' and 'M' being particularly prominent.

Signature of Attorney

Date: July 28, 2004

Reg. No. 30,459
Phone: (970) 377-6363

Samuel M. Freund
Cochran Freund & Young LLC
3555 Stanford Road, Suite 230
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525